
Plan of Management

Natural Area (Foreshore)

WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

FINAL DOCUMENT AS APPROVED BY COUNCIL
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Summary

This Plan of Management identifies issues and strategies relating to the management of public foreshore areas under Council's control. The plan covers eighteen foreshore parks and reserves, the majority of which are Crown Land.

The Woollahra Municipality possesses approximately 24 kilometres of ocean cliff and harbour foreshore. Of this area, 14.5 kilometres (61 per cent) is directly accessible to the public. This expanse of waterfront parkland forms a unique natural setting which defines the character of the local area.

Foreshore lands in Woollahra represent important aspects of Australia's colonial, military and maritime history. The plan outlines a program of preservation to ensure the proper maintenance and survival of items considered historically or environmentally significant.

Emphasis is placed on the preservation of these coastal environments from the impacts of urban development, recreational and commercial activity. Strategies are proposed for the protection and promotion of harbour views, cliff sites, beaches, vegetation and native wildlife. Measures for the restriction of foreshore development and regulation of recreational activity form the basis of Council's approach to environmental preservation.

Throughout the plan, Council reaffirms its commitment to strengthening public access to foreshore areas. Techniques to promote and establish links between local parks and beaches and other foreshore areas in the eastern suburbs, are currently under consideration.

This Plan of Management draws on existing knowledge available to Council. In the event of circumstantial change or shifts in managerial direction, Council may consider revising relevant sections of this plan to reflect the change.

1

Introduction

1.1 Background

In June 1993, the Local Government Act (1993) was enacted. The Act includes specific requirements relating to the preparation of Plans of Management for community land.

Plans of Management will regulate the use and management of the land. They do not replace existing legislation/systems relating to the approval of activities and development.

Woollahra Municipal Council is currently preparing Plans of Management for all of its community land. Each plan functions as a decision-making tool for Council and as a document to inform the local community of the future of parks and reserves in their area.

Council manages 80 open space areas covering 100 hectares. Additional open space within the Municipality is managed by other authorities such as Sydney Harbour National Park. Overall, there are 85 open space areas incorporating approximately 144 hectares of land within the Municipality. Of Council administered land, 72 per cent is Council owned and the remainder is Crown Land.

Due to the large number of public open spaces within the Municipality, Council is incorporating areas of a similar nature into a single Generic Plan.

This plan encompasses public open space categorised as Natural Area (Foreshore). This category denotes eighteen coastal beaches/foreshore parks spread throughout Vaucluse, Rose Bay, Watsons Bay, Double Bay, Darling Point and Point Piper.

The Woollahra Municipality is most recognised for its natural areas with foreshore and harbour access. These public open spaces are characterised by impressive views and offer various opportunities for water-based recreation. Coastal beaches and foreshore areas represent 18 per cent of open space settings and 13 per cent of total open space within the Municipality.

Land covered by this plan encompasses:

- ▶ Camp Cove Beach
- ▶ Laings Point (Green Point)
- ▶ Victoria Wharf Reserve
- ▶ Watsons Bay Baths
- ▶ Gap Park
- ▶ Signal Hill Reserve
- ▶ Gibsons Beach Reserve
- ▶ Kutti Beach
- ▶ Parsley Bay Reserve
- ▶ Lighthouse Reserve
- ▶ Dumaresq Reserve
- ▶ Percival Park
- ▶ Tingira Reserve
- ▶ Rose Bay Park
- ▶ Lady Martins Beach
- ▶ Duff Reserve
- ▶ Blackburn Gardens
- ▶ Darling Point Reserve

1.2 Aims

The major aims of this report are:

- To develop a Generic Plan Of Management for Natural Area (Foreshore) that complies with the Local Government Act (1993).
- To establish objectives and priorities that will inform the short and long term management of harbour foreshore parks and reserves.
- To create a reference document relating to future works programming, resource management and budgeting for harbour foreshore parks and reserves.

1.3 Council's Land Management Goals

- To ensure the preservation of open space as a community resource for public access and recreation.
- To develop a regional coordinated approach to the management of open space.
- To encourage community participation in the management of open space.
- To satisfy district and regional needs for sporting and recreation facilities.

1.4 Structure of the Plan of Management

The structure of this Plan of Management has been developed to facilitate its implementation.

The first section explores the history of foreshore land in the Municipality. A review of its current function, character and value follows. This establishes a framework for the identification of issues relating to the management of this natural resource.

An action plan, formulating a practical response to each management issue, features in the final section of the document. It clearly sets out future actions, the department responsible for these actions, performance objectives and evaluation methods designed to measure the effectiveness of all actions carried out.

2

History

Foreshore land in the Woollahra Municipality assumes a significant role in the colonial, maritime and military history of Sydney. Before their conversion into recreational areas, public beaches and foreshore parks hosted a variety of landmark events and uses.

The Woollahra region was first inhabited by indigenous tribes who migrated to the local area from the Sydney Hawkesbury region about 30,000 years ago. Four tribal groups were found in the areas surrounding Port Jackson and Middle Harbour - Gayimai, Camaraigal, Cadigal and Wangal.

Relying on harbour waters for fishing and its foreshores for hunting and food gathering, the original inhabitants formed close ties with their natural environment. This lifestyle was suddenly disrupted by the arrival of European settlers, who turned Australia's indigenous inhabitants into an occupied race.

Introduced diseases claimed much of the Aboriginal population. The remainder were drawn into conflict with Europeans over land and resources. Middens and rock carvings scattered along the harbour foreshores represent what little is left two hundred years after European settlement.

The appearance and character of foreshore land was also significantly affected by European occupation. Original vegetation featured a diverse assortment of species, many of which have since become extinct.

An expansive tract of predominant heath land with open forest is visible from early photographs of Vaucluse, Watsons Bay, Double Bay and Rushcutters Bay. Early settlers immediately began the process of felling gum trees for shelter and sustenance. Half way through the nineteenth century, all forests in this area had been logged for building, rural development and fuel.

Woollahra assumes a significant role in Australian colonial history. The Woollahra region was one of the first to be impacted by white settlement. The area's rapid transformation can be traced back to Governor Phillip's arrival in 1788.

2.1. Arrival of Governor Phillip

South Headland, as the third location of permanent European settlement after Sydney Cove and Rose Hill Parramatta, assumes a significant role in colonial history.

On 21 January 1788, Governor Phillip, with a party of officers and marines, left Botany Bay to explore a harbour named Port Jackson by Captain Cook in 1770. The party arrived at South Head on 22 January 1788, landing at a small beach now known as Camp Cove.

The small colony established in this area awaited the arrival of essential supplies from England. The long wait for an English ship led to severe supply shortages and harsh rationing. Seeking some link with the motherland, the settlers decided to erect a flagstaff to signal the arrival of incoming ships.

In January 1790, Captain John Hunter and his men constructed a lookout station to detect any incoming ship immediately and to communicate the existence of a newly formed colony. The makeshift flagstaff was erected on outer South Head.

Eleven men took turns supervising the lookout, scanning the harbour for vessels. Lack of early success prompted Governor Phillip to extend the signal pole so that it might become more visible.

Relief for the starving colony came on 10 June 1790, with the arrival of the *Lady Juliana* and five other vessels carrying provisions, mail and an extra shipment of convicts.

A replacement signal tower was built in 1842. Based on a hexagonal design, it is positioned north of Captain Hunter's original tower. The tower is now classed as a heritage item.

The historic lookout post not only functioned as a communication tool, but also as a military site. In 1893, the area was transformed into 'Signal Hill Fort', established as a point of coastal defence. All guns from the site were removed after World War II.

The establishment of Signal Hill Reserve commemorates one of the most historic sites in the Municipality. The land became a reserve under the care of Woollahra Municipal Council in 1983. A portion of Defence Department land dividing Signal Hill Reserve and Lighthouse Reserve was entrusted to the care, control and management of Woollahra Council in 1995. This land will be officially incorporated into Signal Hill Reserve.

Signal Hill Station still monitors the arrival, departure and berthing of shipping in and near Sydney. Flag signals have since been replaced by radio, phone, radar and computer-assisted devices.

Next to Signal Hill Lookout is another famous navigational landmark, Macquarie Lighthouse. It is named after Governor Lachlan Macquarie, who supervised its construction at the entrance to Port Jackson. Designed by architect, Francis Greenway, it was to become the first lighthouse in Australia.

The lighthouse became fully operational in November 1818. Robert Watson, former quartermaster for the First Fleet and retired harbourmaster, was appointed as lighthouse keeper.

The lighthouse site later served a defence function. It included barracks for a small detachment of soldiers to be stationed at South Head.

The original lighthouse was replaced in 1883 after falling into a state of disrepair. Lighthouse Reserve was officially opened to the public in November 1958, but was used as a Council storage depot until 1988. The reserve's opening coincided with the installation of the Bicentennial Coastal Cliff Walk.

Another significant maritime event to occur in the area was the wreck of the sailing ship *Dunbar*. The ship crashed on a stormy night in 1857 against rocks at the foot of South Head cliffs. The wreck claimed 121 lives, leaving only one survivor.

2.2 Military Heritage

The Woollahra region has featured prominently in Australian military history. Its coastal location and close proximity to Sydney explains its selection as an important area of military defence. Woollahra's rich military heritage is still visible today.

Port Jackson boasts the largest naval base in the southern hemisphere. It forms the main support base and headquarters for the Royal Australian Navy.

The British colonists, wishing to create a securely defended settlement, transformed Port Jackson into a 'Port of Shelter.' Coastal fortifications erected throughout the harbour served as protection against the threat of military attack.

South Head assumed part of the harbour's outer defences. Fortifications, made from sandstone or hewn out of solid rock, were constructed in the area during 1871 to 1876. Most guns were removed from South Head by the 1960s, but a number of emplacements are still visible.

Sydney Harbour in 1942 was transformed into a major naval and military installation. During that year, an anti-submarine net was stretched across the harbour from George's Head to Laings Point.

Laings Point has long functioned as a strategic military location. Remnants of defence installations, connected by tunnels, exist at the site. Constructed in the 1880s, they

formed part of a controlled minefield that could be laid along the harbour floor.

Military training was once conducted at an Australian naval ship commemorated by Tingira Reserve. The HMAS Tingira, named after the Aboriginal word 'open sea', was moored in Rose Bay from 1912 to 1927. It was used to train over 3,000 sailors for naval duties during World War I.

The reserve's memorial fountain and garden were opened in December 1963. Both are dedicated to Alexander Tulloch, who served as naval chaplain from 1911 to 1941. The garden was later extended after Council purchased adjoining land to form the present Tingira Reserve, formally opened in September 1977.

Foreshore land reserved for military purposes has been least affected by the environmental pressures of urban development. Large tracts of native vegetation have remained protected from property developers.

2.3 Views of the Harbour - Famous Lookouts

The history of recreational activity in the Woollahra Municipality has centred around the harbour foreshores. This has strengthened Council's commitment to preserving tracts of foreshore land for community use and enjoyment. These include harbour lookouts, local beaches, harbour pools and gardens and small foreshore reserves.

Sydney Harbour has long been admired as a visual attraction and world class tourist destination. Its unique character and appearance is recorded by painters, photographers, novelists and poets.

The Woollahra Municipality offers a range of impressive views of Sydney Harbour. Thousands of tourists each year are captivated by this visual spectacle available from numerous public lookouts.

Gap Park provides an ideal vantage point for harbour viewing. It offers two perspectives of Sydney Harbour - one of calm harbour waters, the other a contrasting vision of untamed sea beyond the Heads.

The Gap, as a unique natural area, has inspired a range of human emotions, from admiration to despair. The high-profile tourist venue also has the reputation of being a notorious suicide spot.

The Gap is named after a steep vertical 'gap' in the sandstone cliff line. The park located above the Gap was established in 1887. After the completion of Old South Head Road in 1811 and New South Head Road in the 1840s, it became a popular attraction for day-trippers coming to admire steep cliffs and crashing seas.

2.4 Local Beaches

Several small beaches lie in the sheltered coves of Woollahra. Their calm waters have long provided water-based recreation spaces for local residents and visiting tourists.

Camp Cove is among the area's most popular beaches. Early fishermen would camp in this sheltered cove enclosed by the heads, explaining the name, Camp Cove. Its recreational potential was realised in the 1860s, with regular visits from picnic and fishing parties.

Parsley Bay, a shallow inlet between Vacluse Bay and Watsons Bay, is another popular bathing spot first used by locals. How the bay derived its name is disputed. One claim is that in 1788 Governor Phillip was grateful to find parsley growing there to supplement his fresh vegetable supply. Another source for the name may be a notorious old hermit named Parsley, who inhabited caves near the bay.

In 1908, a suspension bridge was erected to increase pedestrian access to Parsley Bay wharf, and a kiosk constructed for visitors to the reserve.

As the surrounding area developed into a suburb, and the area became more accessible to tourists, local councillors and residents called for shark-proof bathing facilities.

A community organisation, the Vacluse Progress Association, presented a novel solution to this need. In February 1924, the association proposed a cost-saving scheme to provide shark-proof netting at Parsley Bay using recycled Navy torpedo nets.

The scheme was rejected by Vacluse Council, and the provision of a shark-proof bathing enclosure delayed until 1930.

A similar drama occurred at Watsons Bay Baths, regarded as a local institution since the mid nineteenth century. The replacement of the original baths, constructed in 1905, was characterised by continuous delays and controversy. Although work on the shark-proof bathing enclosure began in 1924, it was not completed until 1927. Public complaints mounted as swimmers were deprived of the facility for a number seasons.

In the early 1980s, swimmers were again in danger of losing access to the baths. A review of their financial viability revealed that the revenue generated from pool attendance was insufficient to cover maintenance costs. Recommendations to close Watsons Bay Baths met with strong local objections. Council decided in 1985 to provide swimmers with a free and unattended swimming enclosure.

A number of unenclosed swimming beaches are spread throughout the

Municipality. One with an extensive history is Gibsons Beach, which earlier held a reputation for attracting society's 'free souls'. It was often visited by escaped convicts and sailors from Sydney, who sought haven in nearby caves. During the 1890s, an organisation named 'The Wind Club', would bathe naked at the beach. This was perhaps the first nudist club in Australia.

Kutti Beach, located near Watsons Bay, was a popular fishing spot in early colonial days. It has since developed into a meeting point for junior yachting enthusiasts.

Lady Martins Beach takes its name from the wife of Sir James Martin, premier in 1863 and 1866. The Martins immigrated to Australia in 1821, where they occupied an impressive villa at Darling Point until 1888. Following her husband's death, Lady Martin leased Woollahra House. After the subdivision of the property in 1899, the beach was formally named after Lady Martin.

In 1923, the beach was used for private purposes by the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club. Public access was regained following petitions from local residents. However in 1926, the yacht club managed to lease three quarters of the beach area. This lease continues to the present day.

2.5 Harbour Pools and Gardens

Another popular swimming location in the Municipality is Redleaf Pool, which adjoins Woollahra Council Chambers, St Brigids House and Blackburn Gardens. Each of these sites once formed part of a land grant of 190 acres awarded to Captain John Piper in 1820.

The gardens share their name with Blackburn Cove, based on their location in the harbour. Governor Phillip named the cove after David Blackburn, Master of the first fleet ship HMS Supply.

The garden area was originally occupied by native rainforest. Blackburn Gardens were formally landscaped in 1954-55.

St Brigids House, now Woollahra Library, was built in 1897. The house was occupied by a succession of famous owners, including the Lasseters, Moulders, and Hunter White families. During 1951-56, the Woollahra Arts Centre converted the property into a public library.

Redleaf Pool was named after the completion of the house, *Redleaf* in 1863 by William Walker. The house remained a residence until 1940, when it was purchased by Woollahra Municipal Council. During World War II, the building assumed the purpose of an RAAF function centre and Sergeants Mess. In 1947 it became the Council Chambers.

Redleaf Pool and the adjoining kiosk area were built in 1941 and officially opened by the Hon. W. J. McKell, Premier of New South Wales. All extensions and construction were complete in 1944.

2.6 Small Foreshore Reserves

Several small parcels of land have been reserved for public use. All are unstructured recreation areas with views of Sydney Harbour.

Dumaresq Reserve - Rose Bay

The harbour foreshore area at the end of Dumaresq Avenue was declared public open space in August 1960 by Woollahra Municipal Council. The reserve is named after Captain William J. Dumaresq, a local landholder. Dumaresq purchased 18 acres of the Tivoli Estate in August 1840. He settled there with his family, erecting a small stone cottage and naming it the Tivoli. Dumaresq died in 1868, leaving the property to his son. The land was sold to Mr. M. A. Black in 1881.

Percival Park - Rose Bay

Percival Park was established in October 1949 after Council negotiated with the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage to use the land as public open space. On 12 February 1951, Council named the reserve in honour of its engineer, C. E. Percival.

Duff Reserve - Point Piper

Duff Reserve was formed from the closure of Redvers Street, Point Piper. A panoramic view of the harbour can be observed from this point. The reserve was named on 8 May 1950 after Alderman L. Duff, a former Mayor who died in 1959.

Darling Point Reserve - Darling Point

Darling Point Reserve was formed as part of a drainage reserve established in 1938. Darling Point and Darling Point Road are named after the wife of the early colonial Governor, General Darling. The road reserve was landscaped into its present form in June 1984.

Victoria Wharf Reserve - Watsons Bay

Victoria Wharf Reserve is named after the first ferry that operated from Watsons Bay from 1854. The reserve was created after the closure of Victoria Street in 1981. It was landscaped in 1982.

2.7 Securing Public Access to Foreshore Land

The allocation of foreshore land for public use has not always been without conflict. Many attempts to secure sites for the community have met with opposition from private landholders and various authorities.

Maintaining public access is particularly difficult when foreshore land fronting the beach is privately owned. This situation has occurred several times during the history of the Municipality - at Kutti Beach, Laings Point and most recently, Seven Shillings Beach.

The 'Harbour Foreshores Vigilance Committee', led by William Notting, lobbied the government early this century to secure public foreshore areas. The campaign prompted the government 'Foreshores Resumption Scheme' in 1908. Most public foreshore areas were acquired during the initial implementation of this scheme.

The effort and expense associated with securing public foreshore land is demonstrated by the formation of Rose Bay Park.

Rose Bay Park once comprised part of an extensive stretch of parkland incorporating harbour foreshore access and the current Lyne Park area. Responsibility for the management of Rose Bay Park was transferred from the Department of Lands to Woollahra Council in 1897. During this time, an eastern portion of the land was reclaimed to form Lyne Park, and the remainder at the western end became the current Rose Bay Park.

In the 1930s, a proposal was made to reclaim land stretching from Campbells Wharf (now Rose Bay Marina) to Rose Bay Pier (now Dorys) to Rose Bay Wharf. This major land reclamation incurred huge financial and labour resources. The advent of World War II saw a halt to the undertaking. Had the project been completed, the present sea wall would have been extended some 80 to 100 metres into the bay, creating a vast expanse of harbour foreshore land for public recreation.

Despite the cessation of this ambitious plan, Council continues to value preservation and conservation of land with historical, environmental and military significance. Making land, especially foreshore land, available for public access is an important Council policy currently incorporated in Plans of Management.

3

Existing Situation

3.1 Location

Foreshore open space in the Woollahra Municipality offers impressive water views and public access to Sydney Harbour.

Much of Woollahra's prime foreshore land is located in and around South Head, a 4.8 kilometre long peninsula which marks the southern side of the ocean entrance to Sydney Harbour. Its eastern shore, facing the ocean, forms an escarpment of sandstone cliffs.

A portion of the eastern edge of South Head is owned by the Department of Defence and occupied by HMAS Watson. At the northern tip of the headland are seven hectares of open land, comprising part of Sydney Harbour National Park. This land features several significant landmarks, including Hornby Lighthouse, a light keeper's cottage and harbour fortifications.

Placid bays and sandy beaches feature west of South Head. The bays from east to west are Lady Bay, Camp Cove, Watsons Bay, Parsley Bay, Vaucluse Bay, Shark Bay, Hermit Bay, Rose Bay, Felix Bay and Double Bay.

The suburb and relative location of the parks and reserves under discussion is as follows:

- ▶ *Watsons Bay*
- Camp Cove Beach is located just inside South Head. It is the second beach after Lady Bay on the east side of the harbour.
- Camp Cove Beach is bordered by Green Point Reserve, a sloped grassed area located at Laings Point.

- Watsons Bay Baths are situated along Marine Parade, which forms links with another popular foreshore open space, Robertson Park.
- Gibsons Beach is located just off Marine Parade. The reserve is linked by path to Salisbury Avenue and Hopetoun Avenue which also leads to a ramp onto the beach.
- Access to Kutti Beach is via boat only.
- Gap Park occupies one of Sydney's most infamous cliff sites, the Gap. It is located between Old South Head Road, the cliffs parallel to Old South Head Road, and Sydney Harbour National Park.

▶ *Vaucluse*

- Parsley Bay Reserve is located off Parsley Bay Road or the Crescent. It is also accessible from Fitzwilliam Road, Hopetoun Avenue and Horler Avenue.
- Lighthouse Reserve and Signal Hill Reserve stand on the exposed cliff line area along Old South Road.

▶ *Rose Bay*

- Dumaresq Reserve is situated at the bottom of Dumaresq Road at the northern end of Rose Bay. The road terminates in a turning circle.
- Percival Park is located in Collins Avenue, directly facing the harbour.
- Tingira Reserve stands on the corner of New South Head Road and Vickery Avenue.
- Rose Bay Park is located at the corner of Wunulla Road and New South Head Road, below Rose Bay police station.

▶ *Point Piper*

- Lady Martins Beach and Duffs Reserve are situated off Wolseley Road, overlooking the harbour.

► *Double Bay*

- Blackburn Gardens are located on New South Head Road, dividing Woollahra Municipal Council Chambers from Woollahra Library. Redleaf Pool, connected to Seven Shillings Beach, is accessible from this property.

► *Darling Point*

- Darling Point Reserve is located at the end of Darling Point Road, bordering McKell Park.

TABLE 3.1 - Ownership of Foreshore Parks and Reserves

PARK/RESERVE	COUNCIL OWNED	CROWN LAND	OTHER
Camp Cove Beach*	✓		
Laings Point (Green Point)			National Parks & Wildlife Service
Victoria Wharf Reserve	✓		
Watsons Bay Baths		✓	
Gap Park		✓	
Signal Hill Reserve		✓	
Gibsons Beach Reserve		✓	
Kutti Beach*		✓	
Parsley Bay Reserve		✓	
Lighthouse Reserve		✓	
Dumaresq Reserve	✓		
Percival Park			Sydney Water
Tingira Reserve	✓		
Rose Bay Park		✓	
Lady Martins Beach*	✓		

Duff Reserve	✓		
Blackburn Gardens	✓		
Darling Point Reserve	✓		

* Sections of Camp Cove Beach, Kutti Beach and Lady Martins Beach, are privately owned. This plan only refers to those parts owned by Council.

3.2 Present Usage

All foreshore reserves and beaches are dedicated to passive recreation. This category encompasses a variety of water-based and land-based activities.

TABLE 3.2 - Recreational Usage at Foreshore Parks and Reserves

PARK/RESERVE	RECREATION ACTIVITIES	PATTERNS OF USE
Gap Park	Sightseeing, walking, picnics.	Local and international visitors. High visitation on weekends and public holidays.
Parsley Bay Reserve	Swimming, snorkelling, fishing, scuba diving, spear fishing, shellfish collecting; Bushwalking, wildlife appreciation; Social picnics, organised games; Children's play.	Social groups, families, schools, nursing homes, disabled. High visitation on weekends and public holidays.
Camp Cove Beach	Swimming, sun bathing, picnics, diving training.	Attracts local, regional and international visitors. High visitation on weekends and public holidays.
Laings Point	Fishing, picnicking, sunbathing, walking; Social events - picnics, weddings.	Attracts local, regional and international visitors, particularly during summer.

PARK/RESERVE	RECREATION ACTIVITIES	PATTERNS OF USE
Watsons Bay Baths	Swimming, sunbathing, water polo, harbour viewing.	Local community use. High visitation on summer, weekends and public holidays.
Lighthouse Reserve	Picnics, walking and viewing.	Used by local residents and visiting tourists. High visitation on weekends and public holidays.
Signal Hill Reserve	Picnics, walking and viewing.	Used by local residents and visiting tourists. High visitation on weekends and public holidays.
Gibsons Beach Reserve	Walking, picnics, ball games, swimming, boat racing.	Local community use. Peak usage during weekends and holidays.
Kutti Beach	Swimming, sunbathing, harbour viewing.	Local community use. Peak usage during summer.
Dumaresq Reserve	Harbour viewing, walking, storage for small recreation craft.	Local community use. Peak usage during weekends.
Percival Park	Picnics, sunbathing, harbour viewing.	Local community use. Peak usage during weekends.
Tingira Reserve	Picnics, sunbathing, swimming, sailing and windsurfing. Windsurfing/ sailing school leases area adjacent to boatshed as teaching and hiring facility.	Mainly local community use. Peak usage during weekends.
Rose Bay Park	Picnics, walking, social events, windsurfing, boating.	Used all year by local residents, seasonally by visitors outside the Municipality.
Lady Martins Beach	Sunbathing, swimming, walking, harbour viewing, boating.	Local community use. High usage during weekends and holidays.

Duff Reserve	Fishing, sitting, viewing, picnics.	Local community use. High usage during weekends and holidays.
Blackburn Gardens	Sitting, viewing, picnics, walking, visiting library. Redleaf Pool - swimming, sun bathing, picnics, viewing, walking.	Predominantly local visitors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children's playgroup; • bushwalking groups; • local schools; • library functions and special occasions. Local and regional visitors, particularly during summer.
Darling Point Reserve	Picnics, viewing, fishing, sitting.	Used predominantly by local residents on weekends, mornings and afternoons.
Victoria Wharf Reserve	Picnics, sitting and harbour viewing.	Local community use. High usage during weekends.

4

Basis for Management

Council bases its approach to the management of public foreshore land on an assessment of its community value. The community value of public open space is reflected in patterns of usage and visitor appreciation.

By identifying the valued aspects of these parks and reserves, Council is able to determine the role that they should play as public open spaces.

4.1 Value and Role of Foreshore Land

The scenic and cultural attributes of Sydney Harbour have received high national and international acclaim. Thousands of visitors each year are attracted to the natural settings and unspoilt surrounds of Sydney's beaches and harbour foreshores. Watsons Bay, and South Head in particular, draw large numbers of tourists into the Woollahra Municipality.

Residents of Sydney's eastern suburbs have a relatively high level of access to waterfront parkland. This explains the local popularity of coastal recreation activities, such as swimming, harbour walks and boating.

Foreshore open space is valued as a community resource for the following attributes:

NATURAL VALUE

- ▶ Significant areas of native remnant vegetation, combined with introduced plant species; to produce an attractive 'corridor' of vegetation along the harbour foreshores and provide habitat for local wildlife;
- ▶ Unique natural landforms, including prominent headlands, cliff sites, bays and sandy beaches;

- ▶ Active marine environment.

SCENIC VALUE

- ▶ Distinctive natural features,
- ▶ Impressive waterfront properties;
- ▶ Yachting and boating events;
- ▶ Naval base structures and commercial wharves;
- ▶ Historic structures and sites;
- ▶ Bushland areas such as Sydney Harbour National Park.

HERITAGE VALUE

- ▶ Several sites of Aboriginal rock carvings;
- ▶ Sydney Harbour, as the earliest location of European settlement in Australia, features evidence of the nation's defence, maritime and commercial history;
- ▶ Camp Cove Beach is distinguished as the initial location of European settlement in Port Jackson.

RECREATION VALUE

- ▶ Major Sydney tourist destination;
- ▶ Provides environment for popular water-based recreation activities, from swimming to boating.

Table 4.1 - Value and Role of Foreshore Parks and Reserves

PARK/RESERVE	VALUE	ROLE
Gap Park	Physical Environment Recreation Tourism	Provides impressive lookout for harbour and ocean. Significant area of native heath land vegetation. Passive recreation venue for local community and visiting tourists. Native vegetation and sandstone outcropping creates scenic walking trails and vistas. Unique natural foreshore attraction drawing large numbers of international tourists.
Parsley Bay Reserve	Physical Environment Recreation Educational	Significant area of urban bushland. Unique marine environment. Predominantly passive recreation venue. Sheltered swimming enclosure. Potential urban bushland study area.
Camp Cove Beach	Recreation Physical Environment	Scuba diving, passive recreation. Small sheltered beach behind the rock wall of South Head. Starting point for South Head/Lady Bay walk through Sydney Harbour National Park.
Laings Point	Recreation Physical Environment	Passive recreation space. Offers scenic views of harbour and Watsons Bay. Pleasant grassed area with coral trees.
Watsons Bay Baths	Recreation Physical Environment	Passive recreation space. Harbour pool and kiosk. Offers views of harbour.
Lighthouse Reserve	Recreation Physical Environment Education	Passive recreation space. Offers views of harbour and ocean. Potential education resource relating to Sydney's maritime history.
Signal Hill Reserve	Recreation Physical Environment	Passive recreation space. Spectacular views of harbour and ocean.

PARK/RESERVE	VALUE	ROLE
Gibsons Beach Reserve	Recreation	Passive recreation space. Reasonable water views.
	Physical Environment	Public swimming baths.
Kutti Beach	Recreation	Passive recreation space.
	Physical Environment	Secluded beach.
Dumaresq Reserve	Recreation	Passive recreation space.
	Physical Environment	Uninterrupted view of harbour and harbour bridge.
Percival Park	Recreation	Passive recreation space.
	Physical Environment	Commanding views of harbour.
Tingira Reserve	Recreation	Passive recreation space.
	Physical environment	Expansive views of Rose Bay and the harbour.
	Military heritage	Memorial reserve dedicated to the HMAS training ship, <i>Tingira</i> .
Rose Bay Park	Recreation	Passive recreation space.
	Physical Environment	Provides harbour access, grassed parkland, and a small beach area.
Lady Martins Beach	Recreation	Passive recreation space. Boating access point.
	Physical Environment	Harbour views and secluded beach.
Duff Reserve	Recreation	Passive recreation reserve.
	Physical Environment	Commanding views of Shark Island, the harbour bridge, and North Sydney.
Blackburn Gardens	Recreation	Passive recreation venue.
	Physical Environment	Formal garden planted with exotic plant species. Harbour side pool providing water views.
	Education	Gardens are used by local schools as an educational resource.
Darling Point Reserve	Recreation	Passive recreation venue.
	Physical Environment	Quiet and secluded area with sweeping views of the harbour.

PARK/RESERVE	VALUE	ROLE
Victoria Wharf Reserve	Recreation Physical environment	Passive recreation area. Harbour views.

4.2 Management Objective

Council has formulated several management objectives relating to the future of foreshore parks and beaches. These objectives recognise the recreational, environmental and heritage role exercised by foreshore open space, and express Council's intention to preserve and strengthen these valued aspects. They complement foreshore management objectives presented in the *Woollahra Local Environmental Plan (1995)*.

- Protect and preserve the distinctive natural features of foreshore open space, devising methods to prevent and treat negative environmental impacts;
- Expand public access to foreshore lands, by promoting and increasing access to existing areas, or by acquiring additional areas for community use;
- Manage recreational usage at foreshore parks and beaches to minimise the impact of recreational activity on these environments;
- Enforce controls on foreshore property development, ensuring that future development does not conflict with the valued aspects of public foreshore land;
- Encourage community feedback and involvement in the management of foreshore open space;
- Conserve, protect and enhance heritage sites and objects located along the harbour foreshore;
- Support a regional co-ordinated approach to the management of open space by co-operating with the various authorities managing area's along the harbour foreshores.
- Take appropriate measures to minimise the public's exposure to risk at all foreshore reserves/ parks.

5

Management Issues

This section identifies and explores issues relating to the management of foreshore areas. These issues reflect input from park staff, previous reports, park user exit surveys and letters from the community.

5.1 Public Access

The foreshores of Sydney Harbour are a public asset to be enjoyed by the wider community, not simply by a minority of private landowners. Council is committed to increasing opportunities for community-based harbour recreation by expanding public access to waterfront land.

Claiming that public access to harbour foreshores is too restricted, the *Woollahra Open Space Recreation and Open Space Strategy* (1992) identifies the need to extend the provision of foreshore open space and recreation facilities.

Several options are available for promoting foreshore open space provision:

- Protect and promote existing public foreshore areas;
- Ensure that existing foreshore open space is readily accessible and adequately used by the community;
- Purchase additional foreshore land for public use.

Due to the high cost and demand for foreshore land, Council is limited in its capacity to purchase additional areas. Preference is therefore given to the strategies of protecting and expanding access to existing waterfront parks and beaches.

The practise of selling public foreshore land for private purposes has raised much controversy and dissent from the general community. In the Woollahra Municipality,

authorities such as the Department of Defence and Maritime Services Board (MSB) have previously offered their lands for private property development.

Recognising the community need for foreshore open space, Council aims to preserve and maintain waterfront areas dedicated to public recreation.

It is also Council's responsibility to strengthen public access to under utilised foreshore parks and beaches. This responsibility applies particularly to public beaches that are used exclusively by residents from adjoining properties. This situation discourages general community use and conflicts with the public role and function of foreshore reserves.

Council therefore aims to promote secluded areas of foreshore open space by providing appropriate signage and clearly marked access ways.

Efforts should be made to increase disabled access to foreshore areas, which are often characterised by steep or rugged terrain.

5.2 Management Authorities

Foreshore areas within the Woollahra Municipality are managed by several governing bodies. The following local reserves are managed by authorities other than Woollahra Municipal Council:

Sydney Harbour National Park, which covers Nielsen Park and Hermitage Foreshore Reserve, is under the care and control of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Vaucluse Park, managed by the Historic Houses Trust.

Sir David Martin Reserve, administered by the Sir David Martin Reserve Trust.

HMAS Watson, South Head, which is a military reserve managed by the Department of Defence.

Reclaimed foreshore land, administered by the MSB Waterways Authority, which also maintains responsibility for land below the Mean High Water Mark, while Council administers all community land above it.

Strickland House and Gardens, Public Works, Property Services Department.

The division of foreshore management responsibilities increases the possibility of conflict between local and regional management priorities. Effective consultation and understanding between different authorities is an essential step to achieving consistent management of harbour foreshores.

This forms part of Council's aim to develop a regional co-ordinated open space system that recognises overall open space provision rather than individual land entities. Consistent planning and regular liaison among management authorities throughout the eastern suburbs will contribute to the achievement of this aim. An assessment of the recreational opportunities offered by other governing authorities will enable Council to manage its reserves without duplicating facilities within the local government area.

The importance of a regional co-ordinated approach to the management of open space is, according to the *Woollahra Open Space Recreation and Open Space Strategy*, to “ensure that the range of opportunities for open space provision are identified and promoted, the appropriate roles of the land managers are maintained and State government policies that affect open space are considered in terms of the open space system in eastern Sydney.” (Manidis Roberts 1992, p. 12).

5.3 Recreational Use

The harbour is a tremendous recreational resource, and a focal point of tourism, being located within the intensely developed commercial and residential locus of the city. The heavy use made of foreshore parks, reserves and other tourist and recreation areas, together with the constant movement of pleasure craft, provide evidence of the degree to which this resource is utilised. (National Trust of Australia 1982, p. 5).

The range of water-based recreational settings and facilities offered at the Woollahra Municipality are a major attraction for outside visitors and local residents.

Findings from the *Woollahra Open Space Recreation and Open Space Strategy* reveal that water-based activities have the highest participation rate in the Municipality. Of these, swimming is identified as the most popular.

The popularity of water-based recreation explains the high level of attendance at Woollahra's beaches, and periodic shifts in recreational demand. Local beaches which attract regional usage, such as Parsley Bay Reserve and Camp Cove Beach, are inundated with visitors during summer, weekends and public holidays. During these peak periods visitors are likely to experience problems with parking, noise and overcrowding.

Patterns of peak usage should be reflected in the planning of facilities provision and maintenance at harbourside parks. Recreational facilities and structures should be maintained adequately to accommodate the concentration of recreational activity in specific areas during certain seasons.

Foreshore parks and reserves are the most highly utilised open spaces in the Woollahra Municipality. In managing recreational use at these areas, Council requires strategies to balance high visitor numbers with preservation of natural foreshores. This is particularly important in areas containing native vegetation and significant landforms, namely Gap Park and Parsley Bay Reserve.

The range of foreshore parks and beaches throughout the Municipality accommodate a wide variety of water-based activities. Occasionally, conflict can occur between certain activities. Swimming and boating, in areas where they are combined, may compete for recreational space and facilities. This has previously been the case in Camp Cove Beach, where the proximity of boat moorings to the beach has encroached on swimming space and affected water quality.

Council aims to encourage many forms of recreation without advantaging particular activities over others. Where foreshore parks and reserves provide for several different recreational uses, each should receive an adequate share of space and facilities.

5.4 Promotion

Certain factors, such as increased water pollution, have turned many people away from harbour beaches and swimming baths:

The awareness of pollution, the increased mobility for leisure provided by motor vehicles ownership and the burgeoning number of home pools - all these have been advanced to explain the decline in popularity of the pools during the 1970s. (Woollahra Municipal Library 1985, p. 2)

Council intends to promote foreshore open space by extending physical links between existing areas. Harbour walks, such as the Bicentennial Coastal Walk, connect individual foreshore parks to provide park visitors with wider recreational opportunities and a broader perspective of foreshore areas in the Municipality. Uniform signage establishes consistency between various areas.

Further links may be established by connecting local parks and beaches with other foreshore areas in the eastern suburbs. The possibility of a regional cliff walk running through the local government areas of Woollahra, Waverly and Randwick is being considered. It is envisaged that the walk would start in the southern section of the Sydney Harbour National Park, traverse the coast and reach its southern-most point at Botany Bay. The conception and implementation of this project would require co-operation between the three managing Councils - Woollahra, Waverley and Randwick - with a view to using consistent and uniform interpretative signage.

The promotion of foreshore recreation will also involve the provision of varied recreation options, including:

- Increased opportunities for land-based recreation, not subject to seasonal shifts, such as picnics and barbeques.
- Encourage local schools to visit bushland reserves, promoting an early appreciation of native bushland.

5.4.1 Interpretation

Interpretation programs, which are designed to generate public awareness and understanding of open space areas, provide another method of promoting the valued aspects of foreshore land in Woollahra.

Interpretative signage and information shelters should be provided to visitors of major foreshore parks. Signs highlighting various points of interest in each park will be complemented by details of the park's historic and natural features.

5.5 Tourism

The *Sydney and Middle Harbours: Regional Environmental Study* (1989) notes a significant increase in the number of international tourists visiting Australia since 1980. An estimated 70 per cent of these tourists choose to visit Sydney.

To maximise and adequately manage tourist visitation to foreshore parks, Council should ensure that tourist sites continue to satisfy the following criteria, as identified by the study:

- High level of public accessibility;
- Distinctive natural and cultural features;
- Suitable terrain for the development of recreational facilities that will attract intensive usage;
- Capacity for development that will not damage the natural or cultural value of sites.

5.6 Foreshore Development

Increasing property development continues to threaten the natural environment and inherent beauty of Sydney Harbour. Council, in its role as a managing authority, should maintain strict development controls to preserve the scenic and cultural values of its foreshores.

Council's policy towards foreshore development supports the preservation of natural foreshore areas and the improvement of public access to these locations (Appendix B).

Woollahra's *Local Environmental Plan* (1995), identifies Foreshore and Harbour Foreshore Scenic Protection Areas and establishes guidelines for their preservation

(Appendix A).

In an effort to minimise the environmental impact of foreshore building activity, Council assesses proposed developments according to the following criteria:

- (a) the visual impact when viewed from Sydney Harbour of the design of the proposed development, including the colours, textures, styles and types of materials to be used and the type and form of any roof; and
- (b) the impact of the proposed development on the natural landform and topography.

A major development control currently in place is the restriction of allowable building on foreshore land, as indicated by foreshore building lines (see 'foreshore building line map'). All new buildings, or extensions and renovations to existing structures are covered by this restriction. This effectively creates a buffer between development and the shoreline - protecting vegetation, topography and the amenity of other properties.

5.7 Environmental Preservation

The value of Sydney Harbour foreshore parks and reserves is determined by their status as unique natural areas. Sensitive environmental management is required to ensure that the natural value of these areas is preserved. The management of this land requires a co-operative effort between relevant Councils and authorities.

The *Coastline Management Manual* (1990) identifies three categories of human activity detrimental to the coastal environment:

- the building of coastal structures for protective, recreational, commercial or other purposes;
- the development of coastal lands for residential, commercial, tourism or other purposes; and
- the use of coastal lands by the community.

Council is addressing these negative impacts with a variety of approaches, including:

- development control measures;

- pollution treatment and prevention;
- community education in environmental issues.

These approaches are dedicated to preserving the natural, scenic, cultural and historic features of local foreshore areas.

5.7.1 Views and Vistas

One of the most acclaimed aspects of Sydney Harbour is its scenic value. Council has measures for the preservation of views available from the water; from foreshore public open space; and from private waterfront properties.

Many of the foreshore parks and reserves are visible from Sydney Harbour or the ocean. These inward views should be protected. Developments which threaten to degrade inward views of foreshore parks/ reserves are prohibited.

Council restrictions on property development and allowances for tree lopping or removal contribute to the protection of existing views. These policies aim to maintain the aesthetic value of foreshore areas while providing direct lookouts onto the harbour.

Foreshore open spaces throughout the Municipality offer a range of impressive harbour views. The Bicentennial Coastal Cliff Walk, for example, overlooks much of the area's prime foreshore land. Every effort will be made to maintain these public views.

Occasionally, residents of foreshore properties complain of view obstructions caused by trees in public parks. The approval of tree lopping or removal will rely on an assessment of the natural, scenic and historic significance of particular trees.

5.7.2 Landforms

The foreshores of Woollahra are characterised by shallow bays and small beaches bounded by rocky headlands. Rock faces, shelves and outcrops combine to form a unique coastal landscape.

Gap Park forms an ideal example of the spectacular landforms present in the local area. Large numbers of tourists arrive to observe the dramatic cliff formations carved into the coastline. Parsley Bay Reserve, although not as widely visited, also contains significant landforms, including rock overhangs, caves and waterfalls.

The preservation of local coastal beaches and cliffs relies on a reduction in the impacts of urban development, commercial and recreational activity. Council is

devising and implenting methods which address the current trend of environmental decline.

5.7.3 *Beach Pollution*

Rapid population growth and urban development have contributed to high levels of harbour beach pollution in recent years. Pollutants distributed by stormwater flows and boating activity, continue to threaten the water qauality of Sydney's beaches.

The standard of water quality should be maintained to provide a safe swimming environment for visitors to Woollahra beaches. Water quality surveys conducted by Beachwatch have placed beaches in the Woollahra Municipality within prescribed health standards.

Several beach management practices have been devised to improve on these results:

- Co-ordination with other State Government authorities responsible for regulating water quality, including the MSB Waterways Authority, Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Department of Land and Water Conservation.
- Regular and effective cleaning of Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs);
- Re-evaluation of street cleaning practices;
- Beach cleaning contract for the clearance of all gross pollutants washed onto beaches.

Woollahra Council has joined several other Councils to formulate regional co-ordinated approaches to the treatment of water pollution. The Sydney Coastal Councils' Group is currently pursuing a number of initiatives:

- Development of a device that treats pollution at the source - with a capacity to trap gross pollutants and to chemically treat stormwater.
- Establishment of a wetlands at Woollahra Park, in an attempt to strip stormwater of nutrients and attract birdlife.
- Lobbying Sydney Water to address the sewerage overflow issue.
- Promote responsible building site management, to prevent building materials from contaminating stormwater.
- Reduce stormwater discharge by establishing more open garden areas to absorb excess water.

5.7.3 *Vegetation*

Vegetation along Woollahra's harbour foreshores is a mixture of remnant bushland vegetation, introduced species and regenerated bush. These elements combine to create a corridor of vegetation that contributes to the visual attractiveness of Sydney's coastline.

The contribution of vegetation to the character and quality of foreshore areas, as identified in the Council *Register of Significant Trees* is:

- historic
- cultural / commemorative
- botanic / scientific
- visual / aesthetic

These significant features contribute to the uniqueness of vegetation in a number of open space areas:

Historic

- Norfolk Pines planted in the 1800s acted as navigational landmarks or beacons. Council should implement a program of tree replacement to preserve these items as a record of our colonial heritage.
- The combination of significant trees at Blackburn Gardens reflect different planting trends dating back to the turn of the century. These plantings have matured to create a lush green canopy removed from busy New South Head Road and the adjoining Council Chambers and car parking area. The dense foliage of these trees is visible from the harbour and local area, forging links with other significant plantings along the harbour foreshores.

Cultural / Commemorative

- Various reserves have long since become a local institution, from Watsons Bay Baths to Parsley Bay Reserve. The preservation of these areas celebrates a long period of community use and appreciation.
- The gardens of Tingira Reserve represent a memorial space dedicated to an important period in Australian naval history.

Botanic / Scientific

- Significant areas of native vegetation along the foreshore are Gap Park and Parsley Bay Reserve. These should act as habitat for local wildlife; serve study and educational purposes; and increase the visual amenity of foreshore areas.

Visual / Aesthetic

- A 'corridor' of vegetation characterises foreshore areas in the Woollahra Municipality, linking individual open space areas to create a visually attractive coastline.
- Council's tree preservation policy requires property developers to gain consent over tree lopping or removal. This measure regulates the impact of foreshore property development on vegetation which contributes to the natural setting of Sydney Harbour.

5.7.4 Bushland Management

Increasing urban development threatens the survival of indigenous and native plant species. Remnant stands of native vegetation are currently threatened by drainage alterations, sub-division, nutrient enrichment, isolation, alienation and weed invasion.

Parsley Bay Reserve and Gap Park are two of the last remaining areas containing remnant vegetation in the Woollahra Municipality. Council aims to preserve these rare areas of natural resource by implementing appropriate bushland management strategies.

Earlier attempts at bushland management in Parsley Bay Reserve and Gap Park proved largely unsuccessful. Previous bushland programs were administered in an ad hoc manner with little consideration of long-term results.

In 1982 Council adopted a policy of bush regeneration using the Bradley Method, which enlisted the aid of National Trust Teams. This program is still used and has proved to be one of the most effective ways of preserving and rehabilitating bushland areas.

The current bushland management program aims to conserve, restore and regenerate indigenous vegetation. The achievement of this aim relies on strategies to protect remnant native plant communities and regenerate degraded areas of bushland.

The program has so far attained good results. The National Trust reported at the end of 1995 that bush regeneration was progressing well due to the reduction of the weed source and an increase in the source of native seed. All areas previously worked were

reported to be in excellent or satisfactory condition. As a result, about 40 per cent of bushland in each park has reached a level of low maintenance.

5.7.5 Weed Extraction

A successful bushland management program is based on a process of gradual weed reduction. The process begins with the establishment of core areas of low maintenance where remnant bushland is least degraded. Work then progresses beyond the perimeter of these areas.

Long-term treatment of the weed problem involves targeting the two major sources of weed infestation - nutrient pollution and dispersal of non-endemic plant material. These are often caused by:

- Urban runoff, caused by uncontrolled stormwater flows containing detergents, fertilisers, sewerage overflows and dog faeces;
- Dumping of garden refuse from adjoining residences, contributing to seed dispersal.

The treatment of these causes will require increased community awareness of the causes of weed infestation, community involvement in weed prevention, and implementation of appropriate stormwater management strategies.

5.7.6 Bushfire Prevention

The threat of bushfire in bushland reserves is addressed in the report to Council, *Prevention and Control of Bushfires (1994)*.

The report recommends that fuel reduction control burns be permitted in Gap Park, Parsley Bay Reserve and Cooper Park when conditions allow. Control burns should be conducted in conjunction with the NSW Fire Brigade and after local residents have been notified.

Gutters are to be kept clear and fire fighting equipment should be made available.

Bushland management strategies have been designed to reflect the various location, condition and vegetation of the foreshore reserves. Of these reserves, Gap Park and Parsley Bay Reserve have specific revegetation schemes, which address the significance of their remnant bushland.

Gap Park

Native vegetation contributes significantly to the memorable coastal cliff landscape of

the Gap.

Original vegetation in Gap Park was degraded by gun installations, the tramline to Watsons Bay and paving construction. A small remnant stand of coastal heath in Gap Park provides a small example of the heathland ecosystem and littoral rainforest that once thrived throughout South Head.

Heathland is dominated by low growing shrubs which appear flat and grey for most of the year, but display a range of interesting colours and textures in late winter and spring. Over fifty native species of plants are found in this area, providing habitat for various small birds and animals.

The bush rehabilitation program commenced in 1982, assisted by the National Trust of Australia. The program is designed to overcome barriers such as the small size, isolation, and urban proximity of this heathland.

The following works will form part of the program in 1996:

- maintenance and follow-up of all areas previously treated, concentrating on keeping the core heath area free of weeds;
- continued removal of couch and other weeds in open areas, where natural regeneration of diverse heath species is prevented;
- continued treatment of path edges where pedestrian traffic is high.

Parsley Bay Reserve

Parsley Bay Reserve is an area of urban bushland enclosed by seventy-six private residences. Evidence of the negative impacts of urban development can be observed in weed growth, soil erosion and creek pollution.

Approximately 80 per cent of primary bushland regeneration work at the reserve has been completed. To preserve the gains so far achieved, park staff are seeking to promote environmental awareness and sensitivity among parks users and nearby residents.

Park staff are also attempting to combine recreational use with bushland appreciation. Picnic tables and seating are being introduced into vegetated areas, providing park users with a shady and unusual alternative to the conventional flat grassed recreation areas.

5.7.7 Plantings

Council's Landscape Code encourages the planting of indigenous species. Where

replacement trees are required, they will be selected according to their suitability to a particular park environment.

In individual areas, planting programs will involve specific requirements:

- Planting of indigenous heath species along coastal cliff areas, establishing scenic trails, shelter and wind protection for park users;
- Introduction of new native plantings in Rose Bay Park, as part of a twelve to eighteen month landscaping project;
- Preservation of the historic character of Blackburn Gardens entails the maintenance of exotic plant species rather than indigenous vegetation.

5.7.8 *Wildlife*

Foreshore open space areas provide various forms of habitat for native wildlife, from the heathland environment of Gap Park to the sheltered bushland gully of Parsley Bay Reserve.

Urban development and recreational activity both threaten the survival of native fauna. Council is obliged to address these issues in order to satisfy wildlife habitat requirements.

5.8 **Heritage Significance**

Heritage items identified by Council are those that signify an important part of the area's cultural, military and natural history. These are listed in a heritage inventory and protected according to guidelines contained in Local Environmental Plans.

Development controls contribute strongly to the preservation of these items. Consent for development is considered on the basis of direct impact on heritage items/ areas of significance. This impact may be classed as visual or environmental.

Plaques, information shelters, and educational brochures are among the methods used by Council to promote an understanding and awareness of heritage items and sites throughout the Municipality.

Table 5.1 - Heritage Value of Foreshore Parks and Reserves

PARK/RESERVE	HERITAGE ITEMS/SITES
Gap Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remnant coastal heathland vegetation and significant cliff sites. • Remnant tram track running around the perimeter of the park, located near Derby Street; • Military artefacts include World War II gun and bunker emplacements and a sandstone/marble memorial dedicated to Lieutenant G.J. Grieve, who was killed in the in the South African War on 18 February 1900. • Location of the 'Dunbar' memorial and anchor, commemorating the tragic wreckage of the Dunbar in 1857, which took 122 lives. The anchor and memorial were erected in the park in 1930 by Alderman C.B. Coombes.
Parsley Bay Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspension bridge (1908); • Residence (1920s); • Sandstone pathways built during the Depression; • Natural features - native bushland, geologically significant rock formations.
Camp Cove Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial landing site of Governor Phillip; • Military wharf at northern end.
Laings Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone obelisk commemorating Governor Phillip's landing on 21 January 1788; • World War II observation post and winch house; • Anti-submarine cable that stretches across Sydney Harbour to Obelisk Beach.
Watsons Bay Baths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baths , originally constructed in 1905, regarded as local institution since mid nineteenth century. Reconstructed after 1924.
Lighthouse Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrounds famous Macquarie Lighthouse, originally built in 1818 and replaced in 1883.
Signal Hill Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lookout post is first point of contact between early European settlement and the outside world; • Signal Station has operated as a navigational guide for ships in Sydney Harbour since 1842; • Original gun turrets and bunker built during World War II.

PARK/RESERVE	HERITAGE ITEMS/SITES
Gibsons Beach Reserve	-
Kutti Beach	-
Dumaresq Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandstone sea wall.
Percival Park	-
Tingira Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commemorates the R.A.N. training ship, HMAS Tingira, moored in Rose Bay from 1912-1927.
Rose Bay Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Features Rose Bay Police Station, built in 1856 as the gate house to Woollahra House. Was converted into a police station in 1887.
Lady Martins Beach	-
Duff Reserve	-
Blackburn Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Originally part of Point Piper land grant (1820); <i>St Brigids House</i> - Woollahra Municipal Library (1897); <i>Redleaf</i> - Adjoining Council Chambers (1863); Exotic garden with pond, fountain and sundial, significant trees.
Darling Point Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked to the historic McKell Park; Sandstone sea wall.
Victoria Wharf Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site of wharf for first ferry operating from Watsons Bay, dating from 1854.

5.9 Parking and Traffic Generation

The widespread popularity of various beaches and foreshore parks during summer and weekends often results in traffic congestion and lack of available parking.

To ease any inconvenience experienced by locals, residential parking schemes - securing resident access to existing car parking spaces - have been implemented in certain areas.

Parks and reserves containing car parking facilities should include adequate provisions for disabled parking.

5.10 Residential Amenity

With regard to foreshore parks and reserves, surrounding residential amenity should be preserved. The privacy of adjoining residences should be maintained and

residents consulted as to any significant changes to the parks.

Uninterrupted harbour views are highly valued by residents of foreshore properties. Council should consider the impact of future open space developments on private foreshore views.

5.11 Community Consultation

Woollahra Council is committed to planning through community consultation. Proposed park developments should be considered in relation to public opinion and comment.

In terms of foreshore land, various community interests must be recognised. The interests of individual landowners and the general public should be balanced to give each party access to foreshore areas.

Council encourages community involvement in the maintenance of foreshore parks and beaches. A number of structured volunteer programs have been conducted by Council. These include a volunteer bushland rehabilitation program at Sydney Harbourview Park.

5.12 Maintenance

Maintenance activity in foreshore areas should focus on preserving or enhancing the condition of existing park features and facilities.

Specific maintenance priorities include:

- Regular maintenance of tourist facilities subject to high usage, such as walkways, steps and toilet blocks.
- Maintenance of fencing in elevated areas such as Gap Park, Lighthouse Reserve and Parsley Bay Reserve.
- Preservation of historic sites and objects.
- Maintenance of beaches, swimming enclosures and shark nets.
- Maintenance of sandstone sea walls.

A routine maintenance schedule is required for each piece of land covered by this plan, regardless of size and patterns of park usage. This will ensure that the maintenance of small local parks is not neglected in favour of larger tourist venues.

5.13 Encroachment

Use of public open space for purposes other than recreation occurs in some parks. This is either in the form of private land owners utilising public open space for the storage of material and dumping of rubbish or private property boundaries extending into public open space. This occurs particularly on beaches which adjoin private property. These activities restrict public access to open space and are to be discouraged.

Foreshore building lines set guidelines for the prevention of private property owners using public foreshore land for private purposes such as building, dumping and fencing.

5.14 Sun Protection

Physical protection from the sun has become increasingly important. Open space areas may vary in the amount of shade provided.

It is requisite to provide shade sources where necessary in parks. Sun protection may be obtained from existing shade trees or from built shade structures. Proposed shade structures should complement their surrounding environment and not interfere with the visual amenity of the local area.

5.16 Permissible Uses

Council may from time to time grant permission for the use of a park (or a specified part of the park) for organised activities of a short-term nature such as concerts, weddings, photographic sessions, filming and commercial promotions.

The use of a park for organised activities without the prior approval of Council is not permitted. Application for approval for organised activities is to be made in the approved form. Approval (if granted) may be subject to fees and conditions.

If the activity involves a commercial element an appropriate fee may be charged.

5.17 Leases and Licences

Leases and licences on public foreshore land will be granted and renewed based on

their compliance to the principle of general community use and access. Any lease applications seeking to change the general public purpose and character of a particular beach or park will be rejected.

The annual general lease for the kiosk at Parsley Bay Reserve was recently terminated. At present there is no lease agreement of the kiosk. However, Council is calling for expressions of interest on a five year lease of the site. The kiosk will remain, but added use of the paved area for eating is envisaged.

APPENDIX A

Woollahra Local Environmental Plan (1995)

The objectives of the *Woollahra Local Environmental Plan (1995)* in relation to the area's foreshores and the harbour foreshore scenic protection area are:

- (i) to seek the retention of public foreshore lands for public purposes;
- (ii) to encourage development which, through its form, scale, materials and design is compatible with the natural and built landform of the foreshore areas as viewed from the water;
- (iii) to recognise the residential, recreational, tourist and commercial characteristics of the foreshore area and to co-ordinate development in order to protect the area's scenic and natural attributes;
- (iv) to consider the impact of development on the views of Sydney Harbour enjoyed by existing residents and promote the practice of view sharing;
- (v) to protect and, where possible, improve the view of Sydney Harbour and its foreshore areas obtained from public land;
- (vi) to protect the natural, scenic and cultural attributes of the area's foreshores, including the visually and ecologically significant beaches, inter-tidal rock formations, vegetation, rock faces, shelves and outcrops;
- (vii) to preserve existing public open spaces along the foreshores and to promote the dedication, acquisition, lease or occupation of additional useable areas so as to provide further public pedestrian access to and along the foreshores in appropriate locations; and
- (viii) to protect the native flora and fauna.

APPENDIX B

FORESHORE DEVELOPMENT - POLICY REQUIREMENTS

THAT the Council in addition to its applicable policies, codes and development control Plans, adopt the following specific policy for consideration of development proposals for land immediately abutting lands administered by the Maritime Services Board of NSW; and which in the form of objectives, is presently applicable for lands below Mean High Water mark:-

maintenance and improvement of public pedestrian access in the inter-tidal zone to and along the foreshore.

protection of visually and ecologically significant rock faces, shelves and outcrops along the foreshore.

protection of natural features of the adjoining foreshores by control of the scale of structures.

protection of visual appearance of the foreshore and all appurtenant land by control of material finishes and colours of foreshore structures.

protection of general amenity of the foreshore residential and/or recreational areas in terms of views, sunlight, noise and traffic generating uses of land and structures.

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